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Before rejecting our commitment to follow US foreign policies, which impact on our current social/commercial/political/strategic decisions, it would be appropriate to reinforce our alliance with other nations. Australia cannot survive on its own. Our very low population (some 26 millions, if that!) on such a large continent is an advantage as well as a curse. Regional alliance with the Pacific Nations (I mean nations of the South Pacific and Indian ocean) is a must. Only then could we envisage a more independent Australia, that is independent from the USA (or China or Russia for that matter...) . In our global world we cannot live in isolation. In today's conditions of the world interaction, the choice is a difficult one. However, our interests are not attached and subservient to those of the USA. And please (as a secondary concern), retain our language and colloquialism as independent from the American slang.